

Mr. Chairman, Members of the committee.

My name is Duane Lutke, Director of Area VI Agency on Aging in Polson.

The points I have to make today concern Jobs and Job retention and replication of state and federal resources by local resources.

We have heard a lot of discussion about the importance placed by this Legislature of creating and retaining Job's for Montanan's. Let me give you an example of the jobs provided in small communities by the Aging Services funding provided through Montana's ten Area Agencies on Aging. For example, in the four rural counties & reservation served by Area VI Agency on Aging we find this year One Hundred Forty Six (146) jobs for local people providing assistance to seniors to maintain them in their homes and or provide life assistance services.

Examples of these jobs include Homemakers in communities such as Superior, Libby, Pablo and Hot Springs. Cooks and Nutrition managers in St. Regis, Eureka, Plains, Ronan, and at 17 other senior citizen centers providing nutritional meals to local seniors. They include Respite care workers, Bus Drivers and Transportation Managers, Dispatchers, Bookkeepers, Long Term Care Ombudsman, Information & Referral Technicians, Case Managers, Volunteer recruiters and managers. These are ALL local jobs in YOUR communities.

We need to continue these valuable resources by funding aging services fully. Should Area VI be forced to comply with the almost \$175,000 per year cut in funding proposed by the Governor we could see as many as 20% of these jobs disappear, that's as many as 30 additional people out of work.

Multiply this by the in excess of \$1.5 million per year CUT in statewide funding planned in the administrations budget proposals in our ten Area Agencies on Aging and using Area VI as an

example we could be seeing 3-400 jobs disappear in YOUR local communities.

This is not acceptable to me and surely does Not comply with this legislatures stated plans for jobs. Therefore, I request this committee provide adequate funding for aging services provided by area agencies on aging. A good start in that direction would be restoring funding to Aging Services and the Senior & Long Term Care division back to 2010 levels as a minimum, therefore maintaining local jobs and support for our seniors in their own homes.

Secondly, it should be noted that funds you provide from state or federal sources are not just spent. They are multiplied several times over from local resources. County funds, funds from private foundations, local fundraisers and funding from program participants enhance the dollars you provide as seed to our programs. For example, in FY2010 over 40% of Area VI's In-Home services budgets were provided from local resources. In Area VI's \$1,000,000 nutrition program over 60% or \$606,301 was provided by local resources while less that 40% was federal or state dollars. Area Agencies cannot and do not rely solely on state and federal tax dollars, however without these seed dollars our programs would be curtailed severely.

Thank You for your support of our Area Agencies on Aging and our Senior Citizens as you vote to adequately fund Aging Services in Montana.